

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are currently pending in the patent application. The Examiner has rejected Claims 9-15 under 35 USC 112 as indefinite; has rejected Claims 16-20 under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by Lyon; and, has indicated that Claims 1-8 are allowed.

With regard to Claims 9-15, the Examiner has rejected the claims as indefinite, stating that it is not clear what is meant by "marking data packets as non-compliant which are received at said input port when said switch adapters erroneously send said data packets from said output port." Applicants hereby amend the language of independent Claim 9 to parallel the language of allowed Claim 1. Claim 9 now includes a recitation of congestion controllers associated with output ports generating grant information which signals whether said switch adapters are allowed to send a data packet to the associated output port and recites "marking as non-compliant any data packet which is erroneously sent by said switch adapters". Applicants believe that the amendment addresses the 112 concerns. Applicants further assert that, since Claim 9 parallels allowable Claim 1, the amendments place Claim 9 in condition for allowance.

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Claims 10-15 were rejected as indefinite since they depended, either directly or indirectly, from Claim 9. Since Claim 9 has been amended and is now in condition for allowance, Applicants believe that Claims 10-15 are also now in condition for allowance.

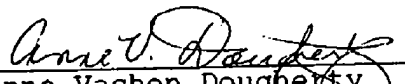
With regard to Claims 16-20, which have been rejected as anticipated by Lyon, Applicants have amended Claim 16 to depend from the now-allowable Claim 9, and have changed the dependency of Claim 19 accordingly.

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments, reconsideration of the amended claim language in light of the remarks, withdrawal of the rejections, and allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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